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SCOPE OF SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY
ACT AND OTHER INTERNAL SECURITY LAWS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

UNITED STATES SENATE

EIGHTY-FIFTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

SCOPE OF SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THE
UNITED STATES

JUNE 11, 1957

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SCOPE OF SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1957

UNITED STATES SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT
AND OTHER INTERNAL SECURITY LAWS,
OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
New York, N. Y.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 2:45 p. m., in room 35, United States Courthouse, Foley Square, New York, N. Y., Senator Roman L. Hruska presiding.

Also present: Robert Morris, chief counsel; William A. Rusher, associate counsel; and Roy Garcia, investigator.

Mr. MORRIS. Senator, the first witness this afternoon will be Roland Elliott. Is Roland Elliott in the courtroom?

Senator HRUSKA. The committee will come to order and we will commence our hearings.

Mr. Elliott, you take the stand, please?

Mr. ELLIOTT. Thank you.

Mr. MORRIS. Mr. Chairman, before commencing the hearing this afternoon, I would like to mention that for the last 2 years, last year and a half at least, Senator, the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee has been studying and analyzing the circumstances surrounding the defection and the redefection of escapees and refugees who have come to the United States. In the past, the subcommittee has found that the Russian officials, Soviet officials in the United States, have used tactics which have not been legal and have engaged in activities outside the scope of their authority.

In connection with today's hearing, Senator, we have no evidence in the public record that there have been any improper activities used by Soviet officials. However, we are simply looking at the facts. We have to learn all the circumstances so that, at the proper time, when we report to the United States Senate, we will be able to present all the facts surrounding these redefections.

Senator HRUSKA. Very well, you may proceed to the questioning of the witness.

Mr. MORRIS. Will you stand to be sworn, Mr. Elliott, please?

Senator HRUSKA. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony which you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. ELLIOTT. I do.

TESTIMONY OF ROLAND ELLIOTT, DIRECTOR, IMMIGRATION SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH WORLD SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN THE U. S. A.

Mr. MORRIS. Will you give your full name and address to the reporter, Mr. Elliott?

Mr. ELLIOTT. My name is Roland Elliott, director of the immigration services, Church World Service, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

Mr. MORRIS. And will you tell us generally, what is the function of the Church World Service?

Mr. ELLIOTT. Mr. Chairman, I think it might save your time for more specific questions of other witnesses if I give you a general statement which will answer the question that Mr. Morris has just asked and extend my remarks in the way that I think may be helpful to your committee.

Church World Service represents the refugee resettlement activities of over 30 Protestant and Eastern Orthodox Churches in the United States. In the past 10 years we have helped provide resettlement opportunities for more than 100,000 refugees and displaced persons. The overwhelming majority of these people adjust well in our communities and make a vital contribution to our American cultural and economic life.

It is a matter of grave concern to us, therefore, whenever outside influences, either directly or indirectly, disturb the American integration of these refugees whom our agency has sponsored and lead them to feel that they need to return to Soviet countries from which they fled, either to protect their own interests or the interests of family members in their country of origin.

While we recognize the right of these people to return to the Soviet Union, we believe that their decision to return should be a free one, not based upon threats of any sort.

We believe that our governmental agencies and this committee are well advised to study their procedures with respect to persons who seek to return to Iron-Curtain countries. Our agency has cooperated actively with the Government in explaining and in protecting the rights of these new Americans but we must emphasize that the responsibility for their protection rests primarily on the Government rather than on a voluntary agency such as Church World Service.

We are particularly concerned at this time, Mr. Chairman, with the apparent evidence that "come home" appeals from relatives in the Soviet Union are increasing in number and in effectiveness. This seems to be a new emphasis in the redefection campaign. We hope your committee will be able to ascertain the extent to which these appeals constitute coercion or harassment by outside influence and to recommend effective ways in which such intervention may be countered.

In cases like that of Igor Samoilow, we believe that responsibilities toward one's family need special consideration before departure is permitted.

Where American-born children are involved, we believe that the future religious and political liberty of these American-born children needs to be especially studied and safeguarded, in connection with the return of any such people to the Soviet Union.

All refugees who have been sponsored by Church World Service should know—witness the Tanya Romanov case—that our churches will continue to stand by them—to assist in their welfare and to cooperate in their protection.

To your committee, Mr. Chairman, we offer our full cooperation in ways consistent with the character and policies of our churches.

That general statement, Mr. Chairman, with regard to our agency may be taken as a supplement to the specific questions that will be put to the other witnesses.

Senator HRUSKA. Thank you, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. ELLIOTT. If there is any way in which our Church World Service can answer any specific questions with regard to the background, the background experience of these people before they came to this country, or since they have come, we will be very glad indeed to cooperate with you.

Senator HRUSKA. I want to thank you, Mr. Elliott, not only for the statement but also for your offer of help. You are making a good contribution to the efforts of the committee.

Mr. MORRIS, have we any further questions?

Mr. MORRIS. Mr. Elliott, just a few questions.

You mentioned here there is an apparent increase in the "come home" appeals. The Internal Security Subcommittee, too, has been observing that the tempo has increased with respect to these appeals. Is there anything you can tell us about that by way of amplifying that paragraph, Mr. Elliott?

Mr. ELLIOTT. I think our general observation is that that would be quite difficult for us to support too factually but it is our impression, nevertheless, that whereas a year or 2 years ago, there was a redefection campaign that was largely in the nature of pamphlets, printed material, disseminated from an office in Europe, either Munich or Berlin, that latterly, that is, in the past 6 months and, more particularly, in the last 3 or 4 months, that campaign has shifted largely to one of pressure through the relatives of people in this country.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, was that campaign you mentioned that prevailed a year ago, the campaign being undertaken by General Mikhailov?

Mr. ELLIOTT. That is right, and I am thinking also, Mr. Chairman, of the activities of certain agents of the foreign governments in this country who were, themselves, active in bringing pressure to bear upon people in this country.

Mr. MORRIS. But, now you say the emphasis more is on letters coming into the United States from relatives?

Mr. ELLIOTT. I think the emphasis now is through family members in the Soviet Union who write appeal letters, imploring letters, to their relatives in this country urging them to come home.

Mr. MORRIS. Senator, I might mention for the record that Mr. Elliott has testified for us in the case of Tanya Romanow, and also his organization has given us testimony in connection with the efforts made on the part of the Soviet officials here to coerce the Russian seamen to return back to the Soviet Union. So, there is that background to this, Senator.

Senator HRUSKA. That is fine.

(Witness excused.)

Mr. MORRIS. Mrs. Korolkoff, will you come forward, please?

Senator HRUSKA. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony which you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. I do.

TESTIMONY OF MRS. NICHOLAS KOROLKOFF

Mr. MORRIS. Mrs. Korolkoff, nice to see you again. Senator Hruska, as you know, Mrs. Korolkoff has testified previously before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. She testified in Washington with her husband. What month was that?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. I think it was last year, in August or July. I don't remember.

Mr. MORRIS. 1956.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. 1956.

Mr. MORRIS. Will you give your full name and address to the stenotypist?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Mrs. Nicholas Korolkoff.

Mr. MORRIS. Please spell your name.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. K-o-r-o-l-k-o-f-f.

Mr. MORRIS. What does your husband do, Mrs. Korolkoff?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. He is an employee. I wouldn't like to mention where.

Mr. MORRIS. You would rather not, all right. What do you do, Mrs. Korolkoff?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. I am a chicken farmer.

Mr. MORRIS. You stay home and take care of the chicken farm?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. I wonder if you would tell us very briefly about what efforts you and your husband may have made to aid in the resettlement of escapees from the Soviet Union and other East European countries.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. We have supported refugees through Church World Settlement and resettled them mostly in our community where there are farmers who need farm help, and after that construction jobs and domestic servants, and something like that. Wherever there is a job open, we get somebody there from the displaced persons.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, how long have you been doing this work?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. I really don't know. I think it was 1948 when we started. I really don't know.

Mr. MORRIS. You do it purely on a voluntary basis?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Just as an eleemosynary gesture, in order to help your former countrymen?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. And how many people—I think you told us in your previous testimony, you estimated the number of people you have aided in the resettlement over here.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. We started, I think—

Mr. MORRIS. All told?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. About 5,000. Mr. Elliott knows more than I. I don't know. From 1954 I know we resettled 500 families.

Mr. MORRIS. In 1954 alone?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Since 1954.

Mr. MORRIS. Since 1954 you have resettled 500 families.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. I think you told us previously that many appeals have come from abroad to people working in your community.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes. First, about 2 years ago pamphlets started to come from New York and from Europe from a post office, return home, come home, stuff like that.

Mr. MORRIS. Was that part of General Mikhailov's campaign?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. I know nothing about politics. I don't know.

Mr. MORRIS. Tell us what you do know.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. And then, after that, we went to Washington and after that it stopped. And we were very upset about it because people used to come to us with them and trusted us and we felt they don't trust us any more, and then a different type of propaganda, how you call it, special to the Cossacks. After that stopped this last year in the fall, the letters came to families which didn't hear from 17 years from their relatives. The wife or the son or the uncle or somebody wrote a letter. First, we asked the people if they wrote Russian; they said, "No." And we couldn't understand however did they get the addresses where the people are living, and I think it should be looked into, however they know how everybody lives in our section. We have a rule. The mailman goes around and puts mail in the boxes like that and there are numbers on the boxes, and about 2 years ago they changed it because the community is growing. Now again the mail comes in the new numbers.

Mr. MORRIS. So you mean the people who are sending these letters, whether they are pamphlets—

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. They know all the addresses.

Mr. MORRIS. They seem to know the addresses of these people?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. That is right and we just can't understand how this happens.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, are any of these people living under assumed names?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. I think you told us before.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes, I know. I don't want to get anybody in trouble.

Mr. MORRIS. I am not going to ask specifically.

Senator, this is a situation that has come up before. It has been in the public records. At the time of the Yalta Conference, there was a statement in the Yalta agreement which required all persons born within the confines of the Soviet Union, that they be returned forcibly if necessary to the Soviet Union by the Allied Governments and, as a result of which, more than 1 million people were sent back to the Soviet Union, and by way of trying to prevent that there were many instances of suicide. People preferred to commit suicide rather than face being sent back to the Soviet Union.

Now, many of the people, and the number has been estimated between 20,000 and 40,000, rather than go back to the Soviet Union, assumed false names. In other words, they gave to the authorities in the United States names that were not—gave a birthplace other than the confines of the Soviet Union and gave a name that would not be Russian in origin. In other words, they would assume a Yugoslavian, a Polish name.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. That is right. Everybody wanted to be from Yugoslavia, Bavaria, not the Soviet Union.

Mr. MORRIS. And, therefore, they were never sent back. It was misrepresentation. It is the most understandable kind of misrepresentation there is. These people did not want to be forcibly sent back to the slave labor camps of the Soviet Union. Many of them are here. Some of them are living in Mrs. Korolkoff's community under different names.

Under what names did they receive these "come home" letters?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Under their real names. Sometimes we didn't even know that he changed his name because his papers always had a different name, and then he comes with a letter, what he received a pamphlet, and we asked him if that is your name and why did you accept it. He said, that is my real name, that is what upsets me.

Senator HRUSKA. Addressed to the actual residents in the mailbox where they live?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes, sir. This mailbox Rural Delivery 1, is the same, the street, just a different name, and where he lives on them, his original name.

Mr. MORRIS. Are these people now in your community receiving letters from abroad now?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes; they are receiving many letters now from home.

Mr. MORRIS. You heard Mr. Elliott testify that the emphasis now seems to be on relatives and former family members?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Just family ties, calling them back. Mother is sick or the daughter had a grandchild, and you should come back, and after 17 years, people get affected and get homesick. And then Khrushchev's speech, I think, affected a lot of them.

Mr. MORRIS. Will you tell us about that?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Well, you see, first we heard about it, that Khrushchev was going to be on the television, so the rumor went around, because many of the displaced persons have televisions.

Senator HRUSKA. The same as they would have if they stayed in Europe?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. They know that.

So, then, all went in one—whoever who had television, who didn't, came to who had, and after that they came to us and told us, how come America put on such a program. When the translator was translating a few times, he said, everything is different. Well, some of the people are receiving mail and Khrushchev says everything is different, so he starts to think. He starts to believe. Maybe he is right and then we are afraid. No, maybe it has affected more people to go back.

Mr. MORRIS. Do you think the Khrushchev broadcast has had effect from the Soviet opinion?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. That is personally my opinion.

Mr. MORRIS. Is it your opinion as a result of talking with your friends?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes, because people are talking about it and before never nobody had any doubt. We know what communism is and now they already say, well, maybe it is different. When you stop to think maybe later, you say, well, it is different, maybe. Maybe the

Americans are wrong and anything can happen then, because it is a big thing to be homesick.

Senator HRUSKA. Is that especially true of those who have been here a longer time and think that maybe changes occurred?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. I don't know what you mean, sir.

Senator HRUSKA. 7, 8, or 10 years.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Nobody is here 10 years.

Senator HRUSKA. Up to 10 years?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, up until recently, have any people in your community gone back to the Soviet Union?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes, from our community went 1 woman, 1 man, and these 2 Nidzi brothers now, and the——

Mr. MORRIS. This Nidzi——

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Sunday they left.

Mr. MORRIS. Up until a month ago had there been many redefections in your community?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Not many.

Mr. MORRIS. This is a new development?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. That is right.

Mr. MORRIS. When was the first redefection?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. I never found out. It goes quietly rolling. We find out then somebody is leaving.

Mr. MORRIS. When did you first learn of any redefection?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Excuse me?

Mr. MORRIS. When did you first learn of any redefections?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Last year we started to look into that; something is going on.

Mr. MORRIS. Tell us about it.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. How did we find out when somebody wants to leave, how we find out. We see that the person is changing. Before he goes between other people, he goes to church. He is happy. He has his home. He likes his job. He is satisfied. Then he stays home, doesn't want to go no place. Then we ask him, what, are you sick? What is wrong with you? No, I received a letter and I never thought my wife is living. What am I going to do now? I have to send her packages.

He starts to send packages and starts to correspond and then we just find out that he is leaving.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, when was the first—when did the first redefection take place?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. The first woman from our place left this spring, before Easter. I think it was in March. And then in April, the other woman left her husband here and went to return and left her home here, everything. Just picked herself up and went.

Senator HRUSKA. Did she have any children?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. No; she didn't have any children here; all her children are in Russia with her first husband. This is her second.

Mr. MORRIS. Had she received letters?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. And they were——

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. And pictures, too. At one point a man who used to work in the Kolkhoz, a labor organization. Now, he works like a

carpenter and very handy. He received a letter that his son is a doctor. He starts to brag about him. The doctor sends a picture wearing a new suit. It looks like it might not be so bad in Russia. Look what nice clothes he has, and then he starts to correspond with him and then——

Senator HRUSKA. Mrs. Korolkoff, a little bit ago you said you testified before this committee last August and following that testimony that people stopped coming to you for advice about these letters?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. That is right.

Senator HRUSKA. How long did they stop coming to you?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Oh, it took a good half a year before they started to trust us again.

Senator HRUSKA. And are they—have they been coming back in recent months again?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes; they come to us and tell us they received a letter. Sometimes they don't even know how to read in Russian. They say in Russia everybody is literate. That isn't true, some of them don't know how to write. Some come to ask that my husband should read the letter to them. That is how we find out what is happening to them.

Mr. MORRIS. Do more people come to you now about advice than last August?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes. Sometimes they say, what can we do? Do you think it is from my wife? How can we answer? We say, write and ask for a picture. Maybe you can recognize her. Sometimes 17 years ago a husband doesn't recognize his wife. Somebody comes with a handkerchief over her head. The clothing is different; he doesn't know what it is. It is his wife.

Mr. MORRIS. Have any persons received messages by prearrangement from persons who defect to the U. S. S. R.?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Tell us about that.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Well, a woman when she left her husband here, they gave her \$500. She bought a whole suitcase of evening clothes and from the 10-cent store jewelry. I pointed out I don't think it is very practical. She said she wants to take them and then she would write a letter that they received her in Russia, the music was playing, the whole town came to the train to meet her and she had seen all her family and she is very happy, and before she left, she told her husband that when she is going to write a letter, she is going to mention that she lost her wedding band from her finger. That means that everything is finished.

Mr. MORRIS. What do you mean, everything is finished?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. I don't know. She took—they took away the money; the money they took away.

Mr. MORRIS. The situation was bad?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes, and she wrote a letter that she lost her wedding band, so he came to the conclusion that she is very poor now, has nothing left. And then some——

Mr. MORRIS. In other words, that indicated to her that this other campaign, this other information about her being well received, everything really not——

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes, just for half a year, mostly. Because it happened to that Mr. Scherbakov, I think was his name who left for Paris and—

Mr. MORRIS. Mr. Shepilov?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Scherbakov. I think his name is Scherbakov. He had a leather jacket and all his friends said, you are not going to keep long that leather jacket. They are going to take that away from you. He wrote back a letter from Russia to that friend and said, you were wrong. I am 4 months here and I still have the leather jacket on me, and he proved it. He sent a picture. And he still had this leather jacket on.

Just after that, he received a letter, his friend, where he said that, you don't like me any more and I am not going to write to you because I received a 10-year contract.

So, you can make out whatever you want from that. We don't know what that means.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, these people in your community, many of them serve in our military service, do they not?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes, the young ones. They came back, some of them already from the draft. They were drafted.

Mr. MORRIS. And the overwhelming majority become very good citizens; do they not?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes. I was yesterday a witness for one. He was going to get his papers yesterday. I would say about 20 already are citizens and very good ones.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, is there anything more, Mrs. Korolkoff, you can tell us about this new type of redefection campaign, where the emphasis is on personal appeals?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. I wish it would stop somehow because I feel sorry for the people. They found peace and happiness here and are settled down and once they receive a letter, it upsets everybody around. Even if somebody doesn't have anybody, just his neighbor receives a letter, so he gets upset too. That is one thing.

Senator IRUSKA. What is your personal opinion as to whether things have improved in Russia or not?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Mine? I never believe it is improved. I think it is worse than it was.

Mr. MORRIS. Do you know Mr. Nidzi?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes, I know him very well. Mr. Maxim Nidzi. That is the older brother.

Mr. MORRIS. When did you first hear about the possibility of his redefection?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Oh, about in April.

Mr. MORRIS. April, 2 months ago.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, what did you first hear?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. We didn't hear first, nothing. We just seen that he is getting different than he used to be. So once we met him on the street, my husband, and we asked him what is wrong, if he is ill. He says, no, I am all right. You know, just news, I received a letter from my wife and from my son. So then we didn't pay any attention to it much. Then we heard that he is selling his house here. He built it himself, and he loved it very much, and he sold it for very cheap. He

lost money on that. And then we just found out that he is leaving. And we told him, you know what is going to happen to you. He said, yes, I realize what is going to be. I want to live with my family at least half a year. No, he said, I was promised 4 to 6 months and after that, what happens I don't care. I am old and I will die home then. I would like to see my family.

He is a really very sad case. He is just homesick and I can understand it.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, where is Mr. Nidzi now?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Well, I don't know.

Mr. MORRIS. I mean, he hasn't gone back yet, has he?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. I don't know nothing. He left Sunday at 2 o'clock from Three Wood Acres and after that we don't know nothing.

Mr. MORRIS. Was there anybody with him?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes, his brother, Illjia, and that woman with four children.

Mr. MORRIS. And then you have heard nothing?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. No. They say they went to New York.

Mr. MORRIS. They didn't say where in New York?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. No.

Mr. MORRIS. You don't know whether it was the United Nations Headquarters, the Soviet delegation of the United Nations?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. We don't know nothing.

Mr. MORRIS. Senator, we have been trying to summon Maxim Nidzi and we have not been able to find him. Apparently, he has not left the country, to the best of our knowledge.

Now, are there any other people who have recently left Three Wood Acres?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. No.

Mr. MORRIS. That is the only one?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Just recently, Sunday, just this year.

Mr. MORRIS. Just this one man?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. How about this other family that left with Illjia?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. That is a common law marriage. I mean, they were living together in Bristol, Pa., and they decided to leave all together. I don't know whether she is going to—going with Illjia or going to her husband. I have no idea.

Mr. MORRIS. The Nidzi brother, Illjia, was apparently going back with them, taking this woman and the children?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes. She is from the Ukraine. He is from Kuban. If the two brothers are going to their own home and the woman going to the Ukraine, I don't know. I never knew that woman. She has a daughter living in the United States, a married daughter.

Mr. MORRIS. Is it your testimony that nobody else from Three Wood Acres has redefected recently?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. No.

Mr. MORRIS. Just these few cases?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Have you seen any of the appeals written to people in Three Wood Acres that have been recently sent in?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. You mean the pamphlets or letters?

Mr. MORRIS. The letters.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Oh, yes; I have seen letters.

Mr. MORRIS. Will you tell us something of them?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. It is the usual story. It just says, dear son, dear husband, I would like to see you. I would like to hear your voice. I am grown up now. I am going to get married, or the mother is very ill and before she dies she would like to see you, and a man receives a letter—he was 17 years hid away and now, after 17 years, his wife turns up and sends a letter and he left his twins, 2 boys, and they are 21 years old now. So she writes a letter that he should give permission that they should get married. It is very strange because the first thing I think he even forgot he had the children—for 17 years.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, have you seen the forms that the Soviet Union asked them to fill out if they want to go back?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Whose form did you see or are you in a position to tell us?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. No; I couldn't tell you that because—

Mr. MORRIS. Tell us about the form.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. The form, I can tell you. It is a long piece of paper, a questionnaire. It says you have to answer from 1937 all the places wherever you were living. And, on the other side, on the bottom it says that you should continue living in the community, where you are living, because whenever you send in the questionnaire and you have to send 2 pictures and \$1.75—I don't know why that is—then you sit there and wait until they let you know, because when you send in an application, it doesn't mean you can go immediately to Russia. I have seen such a questionnaire because a woman wanted me to help her fill it out. That is how I know about it. She is a very old lady. It has nothing to do with politics; just wants to die in Estonia.

Senator HRUSKA. What other questions do they ask besides the places of residence?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Where they were living, what they were doing.

Especially, I can't understand Mr. Ivan Bezbenow, who left from Passaic; however, he could fill out the questionnaire.

In 1917 he was fighting against the Communists. He was a lieutenant. Then he went to all this trouble through that tragedy in Lienz when they walked through the Alps, when they betrayed the Cossacks there—the trouble there. Then, in the displaced persons camps, then we spotted him. He had a nice job here. Before Easter, he sent us a very nice letter, thanking us that we had helped him re-settle here and he was very happy; a nice letter. And then a newspaper man calls him and says he went to Russia. I just can't understand it.

Mr. MORRIS. Have you heard anything about the activities of a man named Georgi Ananiv, the third secretary of the Soviet Embassy, who has been active in these campaigns? Do you know anything about his activities?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. I don't know nothing about it; just yesterday evening we received a call from a newspaper that the secretary of the Soviet consulate was in our section looking for the Nidzis, the brothers, the Nidzi brothers. We told the newspaperman we don't know nothing about it because they left Sunday.

After that, my husband got in the car and I went with him and we went looking for—we asked how would we know who it is? They said there is a different kind of plate on the car, a number. So we

were riding around in that section looking for a kind of automobile if we can find it. We didn't see anything at all.

Tuesday morning, about 5 o'clock, again somebody calls up. Where are the Nidzi brothers? You are hiding them there. No; we are not hiding them. They are in New York. We are not hiding them. I don't know nothing about them.

Senator HRUSKA. What else can you tell us, if anything? You said the places of residence in this form, and where they worked? Do they ask about property or money or relatives in that blank?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes; they asked who is your closest kin in Russia, in the Soviet Union, and that is all they asked mostly.

Senator HRUSKA. Now, is there anything further that you would have to tell us about the result and the impact of this Khrushchev television appearance that was made?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Well, I think, personally, it wasn't a very bright idea, whoever arranged that. It was good propaganda for other people.

Senator HRUSKA. And you think it resulted in a lot of confusion among those in your little colony?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. That is right. It has no purpose. I don't know what purpose for the United States, what purpose is in it.

Mr. RUSHER. Mrs. Korolkoff, are you familiar with the delegation of Russian churchmen, so-called, who were sent over from the Soviet Union last year sometime?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. No.

Mr. RUSHER. You know that there was one.

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Yes; I know nothing about it.

Mr. RUSHER. Can you tell me whether or not the fact that these men came to this country, giving the appearance of freedom of religion in the Soviet Union, had the tendency to encourage people to redefect?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. No; the displaced persons in our sections didn't believe that at all.

Mr. RUSHER. So, it didn't have a propaganda effect?

Mrs. KOROLKOFF. Nobody believed that. Nobody believed a change there.

Senator HRUSKA. Any further questions?

Mr. RUSHER. No.

Mr. MORRIS. No further questions.

Senator HRUSKA. That will be all at this time. Thank you very much, Mrs. Korolkoff.

Mr. MORRIS. Mrs. Samoilow.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Samoilow is very reluctant to appear here where there are television cameras, and I think she is very upset about this whole experience of her husband leaving, and would rather give us the testimony not in the presence of any people. What we could do—we could have a hearing that would be open, and we would make the results of it known and yet, in deference to her extreme timidity at this time——

Senator HRUSKA. When did her husband leave?

Mr. MORRIS. Within the last week.

Senator HRUSKA. Within the last week?

Mr. MORRIS. And she doesn't understand the forces involved behind it, and she is understandably distressed by it all.

Senator HRUSKA. I think we should sympathize with her position, and especially any apprehension she might have. Her wishes will be abided by.

Have we any further witnesses?

Mr. MORRIS. I think not, Senator. What we can do is make her testimony available within 15 minutes after it is done. The reporter could read that back.

Senator HRUSKA. Very well; that could be done.

Mr. MORRIS. Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

Senator HRUSKA. We will recess the hearing, then, for that purpose, and make a further announcement at a later time.

Mr. MORRIS. We will read it to you in 15 or 20 minutes.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Samoilow's testimony was taken, as ordered by Senator Hruska, at the conclusion of which the following proceedings were had:)

Mr. MORRIS. Before we read the testimony of Mrs. Samoilow, there are 2 developments proceeding from her testimony about which I would like to ask questions of 2 people who are still here. One is Mr. Jack Lotto, who not only has reported this case, Senator, but actually has been to see some of the witnesses involved here. So, therefore, he is a competent witness.

Mr. Lotto, would you come forward, please? Will you raise your right hand, please?

Senator HRUSKA. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony that you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. LOTTO. Yes, sir.

TESTIMONY OF MR. LOTTO

Mr. MORRIS. Mr. Lotto, did you, in the course of your covering this redefection that we have been hearing about today, did you visit Mrs. Samoilow?

Mr. LOTTO. Yes; I did.

Mr. MORRIS. When did you visit her?

Mr. LOTTO. On May 27 and one day last week. I believe it was Friday.

Mr. MORRIS. I see. That was at her home at 161 Columbia Avenue?

Mr. LOTTO. 161 Columbia Avenue, Jersey City.

Mr. MORRIS. Can you tell us what you observed from talking to her on both of those occasions?

Mr. LOTTO. Well, on both occasions I was struck by the fact that she was thoroughly frightened about what was going on, and was afraid to talk about it.

Mr. MORRIS. I see. Now, did she tell you that her husband had gone to the United Nations Headquarters at Park Avenue, New York City?

Mr. LOTTO. She said he had received instructions the day before he sailed, that is, on May 29, to report to the United Nations Headquarters Building on Park Avenue in New York.

Mr. MORRIS. And, to your knowledge, did he go there?

Mr. LOTTO. She said he did.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, also in this connection, in connection with this, did you go to the pier the day he sailed?

Mr. LOTTO. On the day he sailed, I went to the pier and on the ship.

Mr. MORRIS. Did you see him?

Mr. LOTTO. I saw Mr. Samoilow.

Mr. MORRIS. Was there anyone with him?

Mr. LOTTO. When I saw him, no. But, just before I got into his cabin, there was a man walking around the pasageway in the opposite direction to which I was going, and so as he passed me I saw the "S" on his handkerchief and I thought I recognized him, and I thought he was Theodore Salomatin, the second secretary in the Embassy in Washington. As soon as I saw Mr. Samoilow, I asked him was that Mr. Salomatin who escorted him aboard and he said yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Did you run into Georgie Ananiev at all, the third secretary of the Soviet Embassy?

Mr. LOTTO. No; I didn't.

Mr. MORRIS. We have heard, Senator Hruska, that Georgie Ananiev, who is the third secretary of the Soviet Embassy has, in the last day or so, called a halt to all pending repatriation cases. We have learned that at staff level, Senator. I am just wondering if you have run into him at all. Do you know whether he was working on the case?

Mr. LOTTO. No; I have heard he works in redefection cases.

Senator HRUSKA. Did you see Mr. Salomatin later that day on a later occasion?

Mr. LOTTO. When I went off the ship he was at the gangway and stayed there for 2 hours until the gangway came down. That is where I was, also, because I thought an attempt might be made to kidnap the two children of Mr. Samoilow.

Senator HRUSKA. Was Mrs. Samoilow on the pier?

Mr. LOTTO. No; she was not. She told me she was afraid the children might be kidnaped.

Mr. MORRIS. To your knowledge, she was not on the pier?

Mr. LOTTO. I didn't see her. She may have been there earlier.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, did you know Mr. Bezbenow?

Mr. LOTTO. I saw him on the ship the day he sailed, also.

Mr. MORRIS. He is the man——

Mr. LOTTO. He is the one who wrote the letter to Mrs. Korolkoff, and was happy and content in the United States 4 weeks before he departed.

Mr. MORRIS. Well, Senator, that is the reason why we have asked Mr. Lotto, who has been covering this hearing, to appear as a witness. Ordinarily, it is against our practice, but we have here somebody who is a competent witness to testify, and I think those facts are important. Senator, as the record shows, a consular official, such as Mr. Salomatin is, is authorized by law to aid someone who wants to go back to the Soviet Union, but, as we brought out in previous hearings, at the U. N. and the U. N. delegation or the residence of the U. N. chief delegate on Park Avenue, they are all forbidden by law to engage in any consular activities, Senator, and that is the importance of Mr. Lotto's testimony.

Senator HRUSKA. Thank you, Mr. Lotto; that will be all.

(Witness excused.)

Mr. MORRIS. The United Press, Philadelphia bureau, has stated that they have contacted the seven redefectors at Bristol, Pa., who say they are waiting for a phone call from the Soviet mission in New York to return to New York and fly via Scandinavia Airlines.

(The testimony of Mrs. Samoilow, as ordered by Senator Hruska, then was read as follows:)

Senator HRUSKA. Will you stand and be sworn?

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony which you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. I do.

TESTIMONY OF OLGA SAMOILOW, JERSEY CITY, N. J.

Mr. MORRIS. Will you give your name and address to the reporter?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Olga Samoilow, 161 Columbia Avenue, Jersey City, N. J.

Mr. MORRIS. How long have you been living at that address?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Oh, about 5½ years, I think.

Mr. MORRIS. And when did you come to the United States?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. July 29, 1949.

Mr. MORRIS. And where did you come from at that time?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. From Germany.

Mr. MORRIS. You are a German?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No. I am Polish.

Mr. MORRIS. You are Polish?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. And when did you marry Igor Samoilow?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. October 26, 1954.

Mr. MORRIS. So, you married him in the United States?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, where was he born?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. He was born in the Ukraine.

Mr. MORRIS. When did he come to the United States?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Well, I think 1951, because he was exactly 6 years over here when he left. May 29, 1951.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, how many children do you have?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Two.

Mr. MORRIS. He is the father of two children?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. How old are the children?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. The son is 2 years old and the daughter 1 year.

Mr. MORRIS. Has he been employed regularly?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. And has he been happy in the United States?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. I think he was.

Mr. MORRIS. He was. Did you notice anything that was disturbing him lately?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No. I don't think so.

Mr. MORRIS. Did he receive any letters, for instance, from abroad? Did he receive any letters?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Oh, yes.

Mr. MORRIS. From his mother?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. From his mother; yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Will you tell us about them?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Well, he was the only one son and she is alone over there. She has no more children, and she asked him to come back.

Mr. MORRIS. How many letters like that did he receive?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. She was sending pretty often.

Mr. MORRIS. Approximately. When did the first letter come in?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Last year. I think about—I don't remember exactly the month. I think it was in the spring, after Christmas.

Mr. MORRIS. After Christmas?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. And, since then, approximately how many letters has he received?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. I think about every month.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, did he tell you what was in the letters?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. She was asking him to come back and she didn't—when he left the country he was about 13 years old. She didn't know what had happened to him. She said she would like for him to come back.

Mr. MORRIS. Did he show you the letters or just tell you what was in the letters?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. He showed me the letters; yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Did you know they were having an effect on him?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Well, I don't know. I can't say.

Mr. MORRIS. Did he seem troubled? How did he react to the letters?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. He was happy that he found his mother, naturally, and he wrote to her.

Mr. MORRIS. Did he write to his mother?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes. He answered her letters.

Mr. MORRIS. Did she send him pictures?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes; she did.

Mr. MORRIS. What was his pay? What salary was he making?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. He was bringing in about \$70 clear money.

Mr. MORRIS. How much?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. About \$70.

Mr. MORRIS. A week?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. You say that was his take-home pay, or was that his salary? You say he was bringing home \$70 a week?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Did you mean he was receiving more than that, and that is what he got after he paid his taxes?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. That is what we call take-home pay.

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. And was that adequate to meet the needs of running your home? Was that enough to run your home?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Naturally, it was enough.

Mr. MORRIS. You were comfortable?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. With no financial problems?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, when did you first get any inkling that he may be wanting to go back to the Soviet Union?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Well, he said he would like to go back, and naturally he wanted me to go with him, but I refused.

I said: "I am not going. If you want to go, you can go alone. I am staying here with the children."

Mr. MORRIS. And what did he do?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. He decided to go alone.

Mr. MORRIS. And then what did he do?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. He wrote a letter to the Soviet Embassy asking them to make him a passport and they sent him an application and he filled out the application and sent it back, and a few weeks later they sent him a letter: the passport and the ticket is in New York.

Mr. MORRIS. Did he go to visit anyone, any of the Soviet officials?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No.

Mr. MORRIS. When he left, where did he say he was going?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Well, he said he was going to New York to Park Avenue. They told him to go there even the day before, so that they can help him to get to the ship. But he didn't go. He went the same day he got to the ship, Wednesday.

Mr. MORRIS. When you say Park Avenue, you mean the Soviet residence at 68th and Park?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes, I think.

Senator HRUSKA. Did you go with him?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No, I didn't.

Senator HRUSKA. Where did he pick up his ticket?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. About 5 days, I think, before he left. About 5 days.

Senator HRUSKA. Where?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. In New York.

Senator HRUSKA. You don't know the place he got it? Was it a travel agency?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Travel union, whatever they call it.

Senator HRUSKA. Travel office.

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Senator HRUSKA. Where they sell the tickets.

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Senator HRUSKA. Did he ever visit the United Nations Building?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No.

Senator HRUSKA. You said that he had heard from his mother first about a year ago, in the springtime.

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Senator HRUSKA. Had she written him any letters before that?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No.

Senator HRUSKA. Did he know where she was before that?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No, he didn't.

Senator HRUSKA. How did she find his address? How did she find out where he was?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. He sent her first a letter.

Senator HRUSKA. When was that? When did he write to her the first time?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. After Christmas. Then a few weeks later she sent a letter. First she sent a telegram that she is still alive and she said in the telegram, wait for a letter.

Senator HRUSKA. Is that after he had written to her?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Senator HRUSKA. Has he any brothers or sisters?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No. No brothers.

Senator HRUSKA. Is his father alive?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Senator HRUSKA. Did he write any letters, too?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Did whom?

Senator HRUSKA. Did his father write any letters to your husband?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. He used to write, but when he said he wanted to go back to Russia, he didn't write any more. His father is in Germany. He even tried to stop him, but there was no use.

Senator HRUSKA. So the father used to write to him until he told the father that he was going back to Russia?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Senator HRUSKA. And then he quit writing?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, when he left in the first place, did anyone from the Immigration and Naturalization Service come to your home?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes. Mr. Greenleaf.

Mr. MORRIS. Was that Mr. Earl Greenleaf?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. What did he do when he came to your home?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. He had some papers to check up and that is all.

Mr. MORRIS. In other words, he had been told that your husband was about to leave?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Well——

Mr. MORRIS. The Immigration man knew that your husband was about to leave the country?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Did he say anything about that?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Well, he didn't say anything. He just said if he wants to leave the country, he can go.

Mr. MORRIS. He is free to go?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Did he say anything about whether or not he would be able to come back again?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No. I don't think he said that. I think he said that the ticket he would get is only one-way ticket.

Mr. MORRIS. What?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. He said that the ticket he gets is only one way to Russia—no back.

Mr. MORRIS. Who is Mr. Bezbenov?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. I think the man who was in Passaic with him.

Mr. MORRIS. He went with your husband; did he not?

Mr. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Were they friends?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No. My husband only met him in New York when he went to pick up his ticket, his passport, he told me.

Mr. MORRIS. Your husband saw you after he went to pick up his passport and ticket?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. What was the occasion of his seeing you?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. I don't understand.

Senator HRUSKA. Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. MORRIS. Did you go to the pier to see him off?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. I went, but I didn't see him. I didn't want to go on the boat and I was on the pier, but I didn't see him.

Mr. MORRIS. Did you see any of the Soviet officials there?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, did he say anything to you about how he was going to take care of your children?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No. He didn't say anything.

Mr. MORRIS. Just abandoned you?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. In that respect.

Did he mention anything about providing for you after he got back to the Soviet Union?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No.

Mr. MORRIS. What discussion did you have with him about getting along?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Well, I tried to stop him, not to go, because in the first place he is my husband and the father of the children, but he decided to go, and so he went.

Mr. MORRIS. Now, after he left, have you gotten a job?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Well, I started to work before he quit the job, February 6.

Mr. MORRIS. February 6?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Who will take care of your children now?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Well, he was with the children.

Mr. MORRIS. Pardon?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. He was with the children. He was watching the children.

Mr. MORRIS. Who is going to take care of your children now?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. My mother.

Mr. MORRIS. Did your mother come to the United States with you?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes.

Mr. MORRIS. Senator, I have no more questions to ask this witness. I think this is a specific instance of how letters from the Soviet Union have caused a defection, in this case left a woman with two children completely without provision.

Senator HRUSKA. Do you think your husband was afraid and that is why he went back?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Well, I don't know.

Senator HRUSKA. Did he say that he was afraid something would happen to his mother?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. He didn't say.

Senator HRUSKA. If he didn't go back?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No.

Senator HRUSKA. He did not say?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. No.

Senator HRUSKA. How did he act? Did he act like he was happy to go back to his mother?

Mrs. SAMOILOW. Yes. He was happy.

Mr. MORRIS. Not happy about leaving you, though?

Mrs. SAMOLOW. I think not.

Senator HRUSKA. I think that is all. Any questions, Mr. Rusher?

Mr. RUSHER. No questions.

Senator HRUSKA. If there are no further questions, we want to thank you very much for helping us out this way.

Mr. MORRIS. Thank you, Mrs. Samoilow.

(Whereupon, at this point, the subcommittee went into executive session.)

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